

STANLEY L. MNKEN, MD, Editor

Editors Notebook

The changing of the guard has occurred in the Department. Col. Dave Burris, MC, USA has assumed the position of Acting Chairman. Dr. Burris is a highly regarded general and trauma surgeon with an extensive research background. In addition, he is respected as a skilled administrator and consensus builder.

Dr. Burris is a USUHS graduate, class of 1982. As an active duty physician, Dr. Burris enhances the academic military medical mission of the University.

Dr. Norm Rich, Emeritus Professor of Surgery, is remaining in a full time capacity. His contribution to this institution, the country and the surgical community cannot be overstated and is thoroughly appreciated by all who have been associated with him.

The Department of Surgery is proud to announce the formation and activation of the Surgical Speakers Brigade. The brigade will serve as a resource to medical facilities around the globe to provide speakers and visiting specialists in all surgical disciplines.

Currently, over 50 experts have offered their time and expertise to the Department.

For details and a roster of participants, interested facilities

can contact Dr. Stan Minken in the Surgery Department. Sminken@USUHS.mil 301-295-9832

Words from the Chairman

What an absolutely exciting event! The two-day Celebration of the 25 years of the Department of Surgery at USU brought together many old and dear friends and supporters of this school. Professors from around the world gathered to remember the start that they were given in this Department of Surgery as they spent research time here very early in their careers. Each of the divisions of the Department of Surgery brought reports on their current academic activities that ranged from contributions to those with brain injury, patients with breast cancer, prostate cancer, and of course, to our core mission contributions to the care of the Combat Casualty that are even now being utilized in Afghanistan. All recognized and paid tribute to the quiet, humble, behind-the-scenes man whose influence made all of this possible. I ask for your continued friendship and support for this Department as with awe and respect for the past accomplishments and excitement for the future, I accept the challenge handed on

Vol. 1 No. 3 Date 11/01/02 by our founding Chairman. The Dean and the President of the University have announced that in honor of his 25 years of contribution that this Department will be renamed the Norman M. Rich Department of Surgery.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Dr. John Hutton recently presented a lecture on Presidential Medicine to the North Carolina Surgical Society.

Dr. Norman Rich served as the invited Presidential Lecturer at the Austrian Vascular Society.

Dr. Stanley Minken was guest visiting professor and lecturer at the Jacksonville Naval Hospital, representing the Speakers Brigade.

Dr. J. Leonel Villavicencio recently presented at the Mexican Society for Angiology and Vascular Surgery.

Dr. Wm. Bolger was the invited Professor and lecturer at the world wide sinus surgery course at Lund University

For Updated University Continuing Education info, please check the USUHS Web Page link as follows: http://www.usuhs.mil/che/schedule.htm

GUEST EDITOR

Peter Soballe CAPT, MC USN. Professor, Surgical Oncology USUSH

The National Capital Area Breast Care Center at Bethesda (BCC) opened in 1995 with special congressional funding and a mandate to do something about the problem of breast cancer, especially as it represents a threat to military readiness and overall morale. A three-pronged mission was therefore developed to provide state-of-the-art comprehensive care for all DOD beneficiaries with this dread disease, to conduct applied and basic research aimed at earlier detection and prevention, and to help educate the next generation of military breast-cancer care providers and researchers.

Patient Care

The BCC is located at the National Naval Medical Center. About 150 newly diagnosed breast cancer patients per year are seen in a weekly multi-disciplinary conference. Surgeons, Medical & Radiation Oncologists, Physical Therapists, a Social Worker, and Nurse Case Managers review each mammogram and

pathology slide and develop a consensus recommendation for the optimal combined treatment and research protocol for each patient. The BCC also follows 1200 breast cancer survivors and evaluates about 800 women per month for early detection or preventive interventions. About 1100 mammographic procedures are done each month. To facilitate efficiency. a major construction project is underway, and in 2003 the BCC will physically merge with mammography.

Research

In 1998, the BCC implemented a memorandum of understanding with the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Fulltime NCI researchers are billeted at the BCC to conduct studies focused on genetics, genomic and proteomic characterization of susceptibility, detection, chemoprevention and reduction of surgical morbidity. We recently completed accrual to a pivotal trial of raloxifene in pre-menopausal women, which will be instrumental to the current nationwide STAR program (study of tamoxifen and raloxifene).

Education

Since 1998, the BCC has been under the direction of a member of the USU surgical faculty. Academic efforts have been expanded to include both MSIII students and surgical residents at new patient evaluations and at surgical biopsies and treatment modalities. USU nurse practitioner students rotate annually for clinical practice, and the BCC deploys a traveling educational program

on a monthly basis to military treatment facilities around the globe. This initiative is designed to heighten awareness and break down barriers for primary care providers and to identify and empower local champions for the war on breast cancer.